GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:163
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007
REJUVENATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized a new strategy to rejuvenate the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) the details of the resolution on contract farming adopted to enhance the production of agriculture products?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): National Agriculture Policy aims to attain growth rate in excess of 4% per annum in the agriculture sector through efficient use of resources and conservation of soil, water and bio-diversity. The strategies formulated by Government to rejuvenate the agriculture sector, inter alia, include the following:

(i) Enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure with focus on progressive institutionalization and for providing timely and adequate credit support to farmers with particular focus on small and marginal farmers to enable them to adopt modern technology and improved agricultural practices for increasing agricultural production and productivity;
(ii) Ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs;
(iii) Promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system;
(iv) Accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities;
(v) Strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain;
(vi) Optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and watershed development in dryland/rainfed areas; and
(vii) Reforming agricultural markets,

(c): A model law on marketing formulated by the Government of India has been circulated to State Governments for considering suitable amendments to their concerned Act. The model law, inter alia, provides for an institutional arrangements for registration of sponsoring companies, recording of Contract Farming Agreement, indemnity to farmers land and lays down a time bound dispute resolution mechanism. Several State Governments have already initiated amendments to promote contract farming.